

The MR/DD Board, Inc.

Baldwin, Clarke & Washington Counties

Three Year Plan

FY 2017 – 2019

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I. Introduction

The MR/DD Board, Inc. is a public non-profit agency created under Act 310 of the 1967 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature serving Baldwin, Clarke, and Washington Counties. Act 310 gives the Board of Directors authority to establish and maintain programs which assist individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Baldwin and Clarke Counties incorporated in 1994 and merged services in 1996. Washington County joined with Baldwin and Clarke Counties in services and planning during 2009.

The MR/DD Board, Inc., which interacts with individuals, family members, advocates, service providers, and school systems, focuses efforts in developing a Three Year Plan (herein called The Plan) on an individual driven plan which addresses the needs of individuals with a diagnosis of intellectual/developmental disabilities.

II. Established Statements

- The population as of the 2015 census estimate is as follows:

❖ Baldwin	203,709
❖ Clarke	24,675
❖ Washington	16,805
- Local government participation must be significantly increased in order to develop needed resources and services.
- Program funding guidelines, such as the Medicaid Waiver, must be flexible to encourage movement within the service delivery system.
- Funding resources must be made available for individuals not eligible for programs provided through the Medicaid Waiver.
- Supported Employment programs for training shall be developed to promote support in the workplace.

III. Mission Statement

It is the mission of The MR/DD Board, Inc. to provide for a system of effective and efficient services to the citizens of Baldwin, Clarke and Washington Counties with a diagnosis of Intellectual Disabilities / Developmental Disabilities. This system of services endorses the precepts that services shall be individual driven, shall be provided in the least restrictive setting, shall maximize consumer and family input, shall use existing support systems, shall be outcome oriented, and shall utilize family, consumer, and employee satisfaction as a major indicator of quality.

IV. Vision Statement

The vision of The MR/DD Board, Inc. is to provide or ensure the provision of services and supports that are high quality, efficient, and cost effective as possible within the resources available, such that persons with developmental disabilities may live with dignity as fully functioning, participating, and contributing members of our community, regardless of their ability.

V. Plan Development

The MR/DD Board, Inc. Executive Director will compile data from individuals requesting services. Data is collected via community meetings from the individual providing input and expressing immediate needs. Feedback is gathered from citizens on the waiting lists, concerned citizens, individuals who participate in the satisfaction survey, individuals enrolled in services, staff members assisting individuals receiving services and via the Alabama Department of Mental Health. These methodologies of collecting information from stakeholders are essential in the development of this plan.

The MR/DD Board, Inc. Board of Directors is responsible for providing the overall philosophy, direction, monitoring, and approval of The Plan. The Executive Director is responsible for preparing, implementing, and evaluating The Plan.

The MR/DD Board, Inc. requests input for the planning process through public meetings, correspondence via mail, and contact from individuals,

family members or guardians, as well as from various agencies and school systems.

The MR/DD Board, Inc. Intake Coordinator supplies brochures and contact information to the Special Education division at the local public schools division in Baldwin, Clarke, and Washington Counties.

Early Intervention provides brochures to local day cares, physician offices and developmental centers for public awareness.

The reputation and experience base of The MR/DD Board, Inc. has grown considerably over the past several years by enhancing its presence throughout the three counties served. MR/DD Board personnel serve on various committees and attend meetings such as Community Counsel meeting in Clarke County, and The Children's Facilitation team meetings in Baldwin County.

Input from key stakeholders is obtained through surveys. Satisfaction Surveys are sent to all individuals receiving waiver services to evaluate satisfaction regarding services as well as to assess future service needs. Areas of need are addressed by the team.

A needs assessment is conducted by the Intake Coordinator for persons interested in services within the designated counties. The needs assessment is performed to evaluate current needs and update information as requested by the individual. The individual is placed on the waiting list if they are approved eligible for services by the Alabama Department of Mental Health.

VI. Service Philosophy

- Persons who have a diagnosis of intellectual/developmental disabilities shall have opportunity to have the supports and services needed to lead independent lifestyles, participate in community living, and exercise personal choice.
- Assistance to access a variety of services should be available within the local community to meet the needs of most individuals.
- Supports and services that are public funded should complement the natural support networks. Building on natural supports shall be family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and community functions. The range of services available should enable the individual to make personalized, effective, and economical choices.
- Services shall promote integration of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities into all aspects of community life. Personal economic independence, productivity, and self-sufficiency shall be promoted.
- Efforts shall be made to provide effective personal security to individuals with developmental/intellectual disabilities, including the right to live and work in a safe and secure environment, reliable health services, and protection from abuse, neglect, and economic exploitation.
- Service systems should attempt to ensure that the human, civil, and legal rights of individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities are recognized, protected, and respected.
- Informed choices made by individuals with developmental/intellectual disabilities and their families/advocates, as well as their rights, values, and needs, are of primary concern in the development and operation of services.

VII. Assumptions

In the development of this Three Year Plan, 2017-2019, the following issues were considered.

- Funding currently received from the Alabama Department of Mental Health will be maintained at current levels. Supported Employment funding via Alabama Department of Mental Health/DD Division and Alabama Department of Rehabilitative Services will be continued in order for on the job training and supports to be increased.
- Alabama Department of Rehabilitative Services funds Project Search and Milestones program for Supported Employment Services.
- Early Intervention Services is funded by Alabama Department of Mental Health.
- Alabama's Home and Community Based Waiver (Medicaid ID and LAH Waivers) will continue to be available. Funding for Supported Employment shall be sought to enhance employment for persons meeting the ID/DD criteria.
- Local government funding is necessary to assist in meeting the needs of its citizens.
- The Plan shall be reviewed yearly to determine needs.
- Individuals on the Alabama Department of Mental Health Waiting List need services. The MR/DD Board, Inc. staff will contact individuals on the waiting list at least two times per year.
- Single Point of Contact services by The MR/DD Board, Inc. will refer individuals to Supported Employment, the Alabama Waiting List, or other options in the community.

VIII. Services Provided and Population Served

The MR/DD Board, Inc. provides services in Baldwin, Clarke and Washington Counties. The area of service is limited to these three counties to persons who meet the eligibility criteria as defined by the Alabama Department of Mental Health. Baldwin County provides Early Intervention services of which infants and toddlers shall meet eligibility requirements of the Early Intervention program.

Areas of Service

- The MR/DD Board, Inc. provides a single entry point into all services provided to individuals with a diagnosis of intellectual disabilities. The MR/DD Board, Inc. also assists family in arranging assessments for eligibility determination.
- Case management provides quality services to targeted groups of individuals with a diagnosis of intellectual disabilities (IQ below 70 and functions in the mild, moderate, severe/profound range of intellectual disabilities). Such services include needs assessment, case planning, service arrangement, social support, reassessment and follow-up, and monitoring.
- Service coordination is provided for infants and toddlers and their families who meet Part C eligibility criteria for Early Intervention Services.. Such services include needs assessments, case planning, service arrangements, social support, reassessment and follow-up, and monitoring.
- Supported Employment provides opportunities for assistance in employment. Project Search and Milestones programs provides job coach assistance on the job.

Service Providers

- **Baldwin County:** ARC of Baldwin County, Inc.
Dawn House, Inc.
Scott Residential, Inc.
Statewide Healthcare Services, Inc.
Volunteers of America, Inc.
Burrowes Residential Services, Inc.
United Cerebral Palsy of Mobile, Inc
- **Clarke County:** The ARC of Clarke County, Inc.
Louise Davis Support Services, Inc.
Statewide Healthcare Services, Inc.
- **Washington County:** ECI, Inc.
Statewide Healthcare Services, Inc.

IX. Waiting List Assessment

Individuals seeking Medicaid waiver services in Alabama may call Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) at 1-800-361-4491. The MR/DD Board, Inc. meets with the individual and obtains information for eligibility.

To request placement on the statewide waiting list, The MR/DD Board, Inc. submits the waiting list packet of an individual to ADMH Region III. When eligibility is determined by Region III, an individual may be placed on the waiting list.

Currently, the MR/DD Board, Inc. obtains a copy of the waiting list for Baldwin, Clarke, and Washington Counties from Region III.

Individuals on Waiting List:

<u>County</u>	<u>October 2014</u>	<u>October 2015</u>	<u>August 2016</u>
Baldwin	110	106	103
Clarke	27	29	30
Washington	14	15	15
Total	151	150	148

X. Current Services / Supports

Case Management – Age 3 Years and Older

Approximately 263 individuals receive targeted case management and/or service coordination through The MR/DD Board, Inc.

Baldwin	183
Clarke	54
Washington	26

Early Intervention Case Management – Birth to Age 3 Years

Approximately 65 individuals within Baldwin County receive targeted case management throughout the year and/or service coordination through The MR/DD Board, Inc.

Supported Employment

Currently, approximately 22 individuals participate in Supported Employment in Baldwin County via Project Search and Supported Employment Milestones Program.

Current Individuals Served in Medicaid Waivers

County	ID Waiver	LAH Waiver
Baldwin	167	16
Clarke	44	10
Washington	26	0
Total	237	26

XI. Funding Sources

Current Funding Resources and Allocations

- Alabama Department of Mental Health
- Special Education Trust Fund
- Baldwin County Commission
- United Way of South Alabama
- Alabama Department of Rehabilitative Services

The prospect of increasing funding sources is limited. The MR/DD Board, Inc. is utilizing local community resources such as:

- Local City and County Government
- Individual and Family Support Services
- Catholic Social Services
- Baldwin EMC
- Community Organizations

XII. Areas of Greatest Unmet Needs

Without question, the most frequent request is from individuals on the waiting list who desperately desire to have services. Many individuals, along with their families, have expressed their concern as the waiting list does not have a time limit or time frame. Currently, approximately 3,500 individuals are on the waiting list, some of which have been on this list for years.

Another vital area of need is transportation for Supported Employment services and community integration. Transportation via public transportation authority is on demand and is not a scheduled bus route.

Another significant area of need is educating families on the importance of planning for long term needs regarding Wavier services and Supported Employment. Services needed for the time after high school instruction is completed should be requested by age 14. Also, individuals currently enrolled in ID/LAH Waivers have to be put on the waiting list when they need additional services.

Community Meetings

The public Community Meeting for Clarke and Washington Counties was held September 27, 2016, in Jackson, Alabama.

Baldwin County held their public Community Meeting September 29, 2016 in Summerdale, Alabama.

Individuals expressed a desire to work and also voiced a significant need for transportation in traveling to work. Individuals and caregivers spoke of a lack of resources for respite care. Attendees communicated a strong desire for social interactive opportunities within the local community. Some related that a lack of activities can promote an increase in maladaptive behaviors and increase the need of dependency on others.

Speakers conveyed information of available services pertaining to LAH Waiver, ID Waiver, Waiting List, Supported Employment, and Early Intervention. Also, a history of services in each county was reported.

XIII. Goals and Objectives

- **Effective Community Outreach**

Distribute brochures to schools and local community agencies about eligibility for Medicaid Waiver, Early Intervention, and Supported Employment services.

Inform individuals of the available services and the process of the waiting list.

Effectively address the need for waiver services in Baldwin, Clarke, and Washington Counties.

Conduct annual community meetings in Baldwin, Clarke, and Washington Counties.

- **Supported Employment Services**

Maintain a supported employment program to promote opportunities for individuals with Intellectual Disabilities to work.

Promote employment opportunities to individuals during the waiver intake process for services.

Inform individuals of supported employment and job coaches to assist them on the job.

- **Annual Survey**

Conduct annual survey / needs assessment for individuals receiving services.

Continue to utilize the information from the annual survey as a measurement of needs for this plan.

- **Knowledge of Waiting List Needs**

Contact the individual on the waiting list at least twice yearly to access their current needs and identify any changes in their needs.

As needed, update the Alabama Department of Mental Health forms for the individual on the waiting list as applicable.